

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 NIC-01

COME-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 RSR-01 /143 W

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R 120030Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6937

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

UNCLAS MEXICO 5101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, PFOR, MX, CU

SUBJECT: FLORES DE LA PENA IN CUBA

REF: MEXICO 4981

1. ACCORDING MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY BEGAN OFFICIAL TALKS IN HAVANA ON JULY 9. HE REPORTEDLY PRESENTED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO FIDEL CASTRO, CONTENTS OF WHICH WERE NOT DISCLOSED. AFTER CONVERSATION RE "MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST," CASTRO REPORTEDLY INVITED FLORES DE LA PENA TO VISIT CUBAN MODEL FARM UNDER MANAGEMENT OF RAMON CASTRO, BROTHER OF PRIME MINISTER.

2. FLORES DE LA PENA ALSO MET WITH CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ,

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VICE PRIME MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENT NATIONAL

COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION.
PRESS CARRIED NO DETAILS OF MEETING, WHICH REPORTEDLY
WAS HELD IN HEADQUARTERS OF CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. DISCUSSION DURING MEETING WITH MARCELO FERNANDEZ, CUBAN
SECRETARY OF FOREIGN TRADE, REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON PROPOSAL
BY FLORES DE LA PENA FOR PERMANENT, HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION TO
HANDLE BILATERAL TRADE QUESTIONS. ACCORDING EL HERALDO COVERAGE,
ONE OF PROBLEMS WHICH PROPOSED COMMISSION MIGHT CONSIDER WOULD
BE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY LACK OF CARGO SHIPPING LINE BETWEEN
CUBA AND MEXICO.

4. OTHER CUBANS INVOLVED IN TALKS WITH FLORES DE LA PENA
REPORTEDLY INCLUDE VICE PREMIER FOR BASIC INDUSTRIES PEDRO
MIRET, WHO HAS ESCORTED FLORES DE LA PENA SINCE HIS JULY 6
ARRIVAL; ERNESTO MELENDEZ BACH, VICE PRESIDENTE OF COMISSION
FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL COLLABORATION; ALBERTO
BETANCOURT ROA, PRESIDENT OF CUBAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; ARNOLD
RODRIGUEZ, DIRGEN OF FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY; AND LUIS KARAKADZE,
DIRECTOR OF CUBAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR
VICTOR ALFONSO MALDONADO HELD RECEPTION ON NIGHT OF JULY 9.
FLORES DE LA PENA SCHEDULED TO RETURN MEXICO ON JULY 12.
MCBRIDE

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